

## CLAIMS

1. A method for generating multiple descriptions of compressed data, comprising:
  - generating a quantized bit stream using a reference quantization step; and
  - re-quantizing the quantized bit stream using a first quantization step to generate a first description of compressed data, wherein the first quantization step is determined based on a first required scaling of the reference quantization step.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - re-quantizing the quantized bit stream using a second quantization step to generate a second description of compressed data, wherein the second quantization step is determined based on a second required scaling of the reference quantization step.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the quantized bit stream comprises:
  - using as the reference quantization step a quantization step for generating an archival compressed bit stream.
4. Apparatus for generating multiple descriptions of compressed data, comprising:
  - means for generating a quantized bit stream using a reference quantization step; and
  - means for re-quantizing the quantized bit stream using a first quantization step to generate a first description of compressed data, wherein the first quantization step is determined based on a first required scaling of the reference quantization step.
5. The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising:
  - means for re-quantizing the quantized bit stream using a second quantization step to generate a second description of compressed data, wherein the second quantization step is determined based on a second required scaling of the reference quantization step.

6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the means for generating the quantized bit stream comprises:

means for using as the reference quantization step a quantization step for generating an archival compressed bit stream.

7. Apparatus for generating multiple descriptions of compressed data, comprising:

a transform module configured to generate transform coefficients from input data;

a quantization module coupled to the transform module, the quantization module configured to quantize the transform coefficients using a reference quantization step and to re-quantize the quantized transform coefficients using different quantization steps to generate multiple descriptions of compressed data, wherein each of the different quantization step is determined based on a required scaling of the reference quantization step.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the quantization module comprises:

a first quantization module configured to quantize the transform coefficients using the reference quantization step; and

a second quantization module configured to re-quantize the quantized transform coefficients using the different quantization steps.

9. A method for generating compressed data comprising:

accessing a quantized bit stream generated using a reference quantization step; and

re-quantizing the quantized bit stream using a first quantization step to generate a first description of compressed data, wherein the first quantization step is determined based on a first required scaling of the reference quantization step.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

re-quantizing the quantized bit stream using a second quantization step to generate a second description of compressed data, wherein the second quantization

step is determined based on a second required scaling of the reference quantization step.

11. Apparatus for generating compressed data comprising:

means for accessing a quantized bit stream generated using a reference quantization step; and

means for re-quantizing the quantized bit stream using a first quantization step to generate a first description of compressed data, wherein the first quantization step is determined based on a first required scaling of the reference quantization step.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

means for re-quantizing the quantized bit stream using a second quantization step to generate a second description of compressed data, wherein the second quantization step is determined based on a second required scaling of the reference quantization step.

13. Apparatus for generating compressed data comprising:

a storage medium configured to store a quantized bit stream generated using a reference quantization step; and

a quantization module coupled to the storage medium and configured to re-quantize the quantized bit stream using different quantization steps to generate multiple descriptions of compressed data, wherein each of the different quantization step is determined based on a required scaling of the reference quantization step.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the storage medium is configured to store an archival compressed bit stream as the compressed bit stream.

15. A method for generating multiple descriptions of compressed data, comprising:

generating a quantized bit stream using a reference quantization step;

encoding the quantized bit stream;

decoding the encoded quantized bit stream; and

re-quantizing the decoded quantized bit stream using a first quantization step to generate a first description of compressed data, wherein the first quantization step is determined based on a first required scaling of the reference quantization step.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

re-quantizing the decoded quantized bit stream using a second quantization step to generate a second description of compressed data, wherein the second quantization step is determined based on a second required scaling of the reference quantization step.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein generating the quantized bit stream comprises:

using as the reference quantization step a quantization step for generating an archival compressed bit stream.

18. The apparatus for generating multiple descriptions of compressed data, comprising:

means for generating a quantized bit stream using a reference quantization step;

means for encoding the quantized bit stream;

means for decoding the encoded quantized bit stream; and

means for re-quantizing the decoded quantized bit stream using a first quantization step to generate a first description of compressed data, wherein the first quantization step is determined based on a first required scaling of the reference quantization step.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising:

means for re-quantizing the decoded quantized bit stream using a second quantization step to generate a second description of compressed data, wherein the second quantization step is determined based on a second required scaling of the reference quantization step.

20. Apparatus for generating multiple descriptions of compressed data, comprising:

a quantization module configured to generate a quantized bit stream using a reference quantization step;

a coding module coupled to the quantization module and configured to encode the quantized bit stream; and

a decoding module configured to decode the encoded quantized bit stream;

wherein the quantization module is configured to re-quantize the decoded quantized bit stream using different quantization steps to generate multiple descriptions of compressed data, wherein each of the quantization step is determined based on a required scaling of the reference quantization step.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the quantization module comprises:

a first quantization module configured to generate the quantized bit stream using the reference quantization step; and

a second quantization module configured to re-quantize the decoded quantized bit stream using the different quantization steps to generate the multiple descriptions of compressed data.

22. A method for generating compressed data based on encoded quantized bit stream, comprising:

accessing compressed bit stream generated by quantization using a reference quantization step;

decoding compressed bit stream to generate decoded quantized bit stream; and

re-quantizing the decoded quantized bit stream using a first quantization step to generate a first description of compressed data, wherein the first quantization step is determined based on a first required scaling of the reference quantization step.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising:

re-quantizing the decoded quantized bit stream using a second quantization step to generate a second description of compressed data, wherein the second quantization step is determined based on a second required scaling of the reference quantization step.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein accessing the compressed bit stream comprises:

accessing an archival compressed bit stream generated using as the reference quantization step a quantization step for generating an archival compressed bit stream.

25. Apparatus for generating compressed data based on encoded quantized bit stream, the apparatus comprising:

means for accessing compressed bit stream generated by quantization using a reference quantization step;

means for decoding compressed bit stream to generate decoded quantized bit stream; and

means for re-quantizing the decoded quantized bit stream using a first quantization step to generate a first description of compressed data, wherein the first quantization step is determined based on a first required scaling of the reference quantization step.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising:

means for re-quantizing the decoded quantized bit stream using a second quantization step to generate a second description of compressed data, wherein the second quantization step is determined based on a second required scaling of the reference quantization step.

27. Apparatus for generating multiple descriptions of compressed data based on encoded quantized bit stream, the apparatus comprising:

a storage medium configured to store a compressed bit stream generated by quantization using a reference quantization step;

a decoding module configured to decode the compressed bit stream; and

a quantization module configured to re-quantize the decoded compressed bit stream using different quantization steps to generate multiple descriptions of compressed data, wherein each of the quantization step is determined based on a required scaling of the reference quantization step.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the storage medium is configured to store an archival compressed bit stream as the compressed bit stream.